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Message Text

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73
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 CU-02 AID-05 /067 W
---------- 036002
R 161207Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9736
INFO USINT BAGHDAD
NSG81.?3/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 1713
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 0947

NOFORN

E.O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: PINT, SU
SUBJECT: INDICATIONS RENEWED ACTIVITY BY SUDANESE
COMMUNIST PARTY

REF: KHARTOUM 0936 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: NIMEIRI'S APRIL 14 SPEECH CASTIGATING LOCAL COMMUNISTS EVIDENTLY PROMPTED IN PART BY SOME RENEWAL OVERT ACTIVITY BY SUDANESE COMMUNIST PARTY (SCP) AS WELL AS GENERAL RUMOR-MONGERING BY OPPOSITION ELEMENTS. SCATTERED INFO AVAILABLE EMBASSY DOES SUGGEST MODEST HEIGHTENED SCP EFFORTS IN PAST FEW WEEKS. COUNTRY TEAM SEEKING DEVELOP ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC INFO. END SUMMARY.

1. EXTENT TO WHICH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S SLASHING ATTACK APRIL 14 ON LOCAL COMMUNISTS (REFTEL) PROMPTED BY REAL
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UPSURGE IN SCP EFFORTS - AS OPPOSED TO GENERAL ANTI-REGIME RUMOR-MONGERING--IS DIFFICULT TO GAUGE. HIS CRITICISM EVIDENTLY

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DIRECTED NOT ONLY AGAINST SCP BUT LESS OBVIOUSLY AGAINST SO-
CALLED "NATIONAL COMMUNISTS," SOME OF WHOM NOW PROMINENT
IN SSU AND AT DIPLOMATIC POSTS ABROAD. PRELIMINARY INFO DOES
SUGGEST, HOWEVER, THAT SCP CADRES HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT MORE
ACTIVE IN PAMPHLETEERING AND SLOGAN WRITING IN RECENT WEEKS.
ALSO, ONE SOURCE STATES THAT SINGA (PARA 1 REFTEL)
LONG IDENTIFIED WITHIN GOS NOT ONLY AS CENTER FORMER
UMMA PARTY ACTIVITY BUT ALSO AS POSSIBLE REGIONAL SCP
CENTER FOR BLUE NILE PROVINCE. THIS WOULD EXPLAIN WHY NIMEIRI,
WHO HAS BEEN TIRELESS VISITOR TO VIRTUALLY ALL SECTIONS SUDANESE
BOONDOCKS, HAD AVOIDED SINGA AND ALSO WHY HIS MARCH 28
VISIT THERE EVIDENTLY MET WITH SOME ORGANIZED OPPOSITION.

2. ALLEGEDLY WELL-INFORMED ANTI-COMMUNIST EX-COMMISSIONER
KHARTOUM PROVINCE TOLD SOURCE APRIL 13 THAT COMMUNISTS ARE
"MOVING." ANTI-REGIME WALL POSTERS INSIDE KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY
AT TIME AKOBO INCIDENT (KHARTOUM 0543 NOTAL) ALSO PROBABLY WORK
OF WELL ORGANIZED COMMUNIST STUDENT GROUP. KU REPEAT KU
WAS CLOSED MARCH 12 OVER ISSUE OF EXAM POSTPONEMENT REPORTEDLY
SPARKED BY COMMUNIST STUDENTS (KHARTOUM 0623).

3. MEANWHILE ON HEELS NIMEIRI SPEECH, SENIOR SSU OFFICIALS
AND LOCAL EDITORIALISTS DUTIFULLY HAILED PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS
AND CASTIGATED "COMMUNIST GANGS" IN APRIL 16 PRESS.

4. DO NOT WISH SUGGEST ANY MAJOR SCP CAMPAIGN
EXISTS POSING SIGNIFICANT THREAT NIMEIRI REGIME. HOWEVER,
COMMUNISTS CURRENTLY REPRESENT THE ONLY POLITICAL OPPOSITION
GROUP INSIDE SUDAN POSSESSING SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL ORGANIZATION.
ANY UPSURGE IN COMMUNIST ACTIVITY THUS LIKELY BE WORRISOME
TO THIS NARROWLY-BASED REGIME. AS TO WHY SCP MIGHT BE
BECOMING MORE ACTIVE NOW, WE ASSUME THAT KEY COMMUNISTS
WHO RETURNED HERE LAST SEPTEMBER (PAGE 3 KHARTOUM A-122,
DEC 16, 1974, NOTAL) MAY RECENTLY HAVE BEEN SET AT LIBERTY,
SINCE NORMAL PERIOD DETENTION WITHOUT JUDICIAL ACTION IS
LIMITED TO SIX MONTHS. COUNTRY TEAM CURRENTLY ENDEAVORING
DEVELOP MORE DETAILED INFORMATION ON THIS AND OTHER ASPECTS
CURRENT SCP ROLE HERE BUT SPECIFICS MAY WELL PROVE HARD
TO COME BY.
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